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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 20 March 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 20 March 1991 addressed to you by His Excellency Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mustafa AKŞIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 20 March 1991 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your kind attention a recent joint decision by Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus to celebrate 1 April as a national holiday. This date marks the beginning of the violent activities of the Greek Cypriot terrorist organization EOKA in Cyprus aimed at annexing the island to Greece (ENOSIS).

I need not go into the details of EOKA's violent activities in Cyprus since 1955, aimed at eliminating anybody who stood in the way of their irredentist ambitions. These are well-known and well-documented facts. Suffice it to say that this terrorist organization, which caused untold bloodshed and suffering in the island since the mid-1950s, remained active throughout the 1960s and the 1970s. It was the offshoot of this organization, the notorious EOKA-B, that collaborated with the Greek Junta in staging the coup d'état of 15 July 1974, which brought the self-confessed killer, Nicos Sampson, to power. EOKA remains a potent force within the Greek Cypriot community even today and the best evidence that the "EOKA spirit" is alive on the Greek Cypriot side is the decision of Greece and the Greek Cypriot side to designate 1 April as an official holiday.

At a time when your representatives are continuing their contacts with the two sides with a view to achieving progress in the negotiating process within the framework of resolution 649 (1990), the Turkish Cypriot side regards this latest action by the Greek Cypriot side and Greece as a new manifestation of their longstanding hostility towards the Turkish Cypriot people and their continued lack of political will to reach accommodation with the Turkish Cypriots. Indeed, this new move reinforces our concern that the joint Greek and Greek Cypriot front has no interest whatsoever in working within the established framework and procedures towards reaching a settlement through negotiations as envisaged by Security Council resolution 649 (1990).

The Turkish Cypriot side, which has cooperated fully with you and has again displayed maximum flexibility, deeply regrets this decision of the Greek Cypriot leadership taken in conjunction with the Greek Government, as a new blow to prospects for better relations between the two peoples, and a clear contravention of paragraph 5 of resolution 649 (1990).

I should be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative of the
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus